Regional development in Madhya Pradesh

†791. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government policies are responsible to a large extent for the developmental imbalance and backwardness among the States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that State of Madhya Pradesh which is enriched with natural resources has been deprived of thousands of crores of rupees annually under various Heads such as outstanding coal royalty, compensation of non-exploitation of forest property, etc. because of erroneous policies; and

(c) if so, by when Government would contemplate to ensure regional development of Madhya Pradesh and release the said outstanding amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The issue of payment of coal royalty and compensation for non-exploitation of forest property are matters of national policy, and no State, including Madhya Pradesh, is deprived of benefits where applicable as per these policies.

(c) Development of a State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. Government of India is committed to assisting the efforts of the States for balanced regional development, and is providing assistance under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana for development of the backward districts of the States. Ten districts of Madhya Pradesh have been identified under this programme and each identified district is eligible to receive Rs. 15 crore per year for three years as additional development funding.

Economic reforms

†792. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would make any concrete system so that the benefits of economic reforms should reach the common man;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, by when the concrete steps would be taken in this direction; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The National Common Minimum Programme has identified a number of areas to be implemented over the next five years, which will help the common man reap the benefits of economic reforms. In this connection, a number of task groups have been setup. The Standing Committees of National Development Council are also being reconstituted. A Committee on Infrastructure has also been set up. The recommendations of these groups would form the basis for ensuring that the benefits of reforms reach the common man.

Financial aid to backward districts

†793. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have provided additional financial aid amounting to Rs. 3,750 crores to 150 backward districts of country including areas of Bihar and Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of these 150 districts, State-wise and the amount allocated for development of each district; and

(c) whether any action plan has been prepared to spend this amount; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The backward districts initiative of Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, a new programme launched in the 10th Plan, covers 147 districts including 21 districts of Bihar and 5 districts of Orissa. For each district, a sum of Rs. 15 crore per year is to be provided for three years for implementation of schemes included in the District Plans. List of districts, State-wise is enclosed as Statement (See below).

(c) The State Governments are required to prepare Perspective District Plan of each district for three years and implement it after approval.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.